11. Instant Action Groups have been formed on certain nominated trains to check entry of unauthorised passengers in reserved coaches and persons carrying inflammable/explosive material.

12. The frequency of inspections and surprise checks has been increased . More safety drives have been launched.

Concession for Senior Citizens and School Teachers

361. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether railways have provided for some fare and related concessions for senior citizens and secondary school teachers;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, justifications thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Senior Citizens of 65 and above are granted 25% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Main/Express fares. Teachers of Primary, Secondary, High and Higher Secondary Schools are granted 25% concession in Second and Sleeper Class Main/Express fares when travelling beyond 300 Kms. in groups of minimum four for educational tours of places of historical, geographical and cultural importance. The concession is granted on production of the requisite certificate from the Head Master/Head Mistress/Principal of the concerned school.

(c) Does not arise.

Introduction of New Trains

362. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK :
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA BENDA CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the demands made by the State governments, Members of Parliament and various organisations for introduction of new trains during the current year, train-wise;

(b) whether the new trains announced in the Budget 1997-98 and thereafter on various occasions have been introduced;

(c) if so, the names of new trains introduced by the Government in different States in the Golden Jubilee Year of Independence;

(d) the details of Railways Zones/Divisions through which these trains are running;

(e) the details of additional facilities being provided to the Railway commuters;

(f) the names of the new trains which are yet to be introduced alongwith the reasons for delay;

(g) whether there is any proposal to attach all type of coaches in the trains plying at present; and

(h) if so, the details thereof and the reaosns for not attaching all type of bogies in all the trains?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) Representations are received for introduction of trains at various levels of the Railway Administration . As the information is voluminous and involves repetition, these are not compiled train-wise.

(b) All the trains announced except the following. have been introduced :

1. Ahmedabad-New Delhi Rajdhani Exp. (Weekly).

2. Porbander-Delhi Sarai Rohilla Exp. (Weekly).

3. Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Express (Triweekly).

4. Vasco-Bangalore Express.

5. Amritsar-Jaipur Express (Bi-weekly).

6. Nizamuddin-Secunderabad Rajdhani Exp. (Weekly).

7. Koraput-Rayagada Link Express to Bhubaneshwar.

(c) Railways do not introduce trains State-wise.

(d) and (e) 101 trains-40 Express and 61 passenger trains serving commuters in the 9 Zonal Railways and covering about 40 Divisions have been introduced during 1997-98.

(f) Trains mentioned in part (b) of the reply have not been introduced due to operational and resource constraints.

(g) and (h) No,Sir. It is not feasible to attach all types of coaches in the trains.

DD Programmes in J & K

363. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan Programmes are visible in Doda, Rajauri, Poonch Kathna and other border districts of Jammu and Kashmir;